LANDSAT MONTHLY UPDATE

June 2002

The Landsat 7 Mission is managed by the U.S. Geological Survey under authority established by Presidential Decision Directive NSTC-3.

Program News

IGS Metadata

IGS Metadata from Canada, Australia, South Africa, Japan, China, Argentina, Thailand, and Europe continue to be archived successfully. As of June 30, 2002, there were 11,487 L7 IGS subintervals archived for 190,990 Landsat 7 Worldwide Reference System (WRS) scenes. The USGS hopes to begin receiving metadata from Maspalomas, Spain; Matera, Italy; and Hiroshima, Japan very soon. The USGS IGS Web pages and the EDG IGS ordering link pages continue to be reviewed and updated. The NASA IGS Web pages are also being revised.

Backup Mission Operations Center

On June 24, 2002, the Landsat 7 Flight Operations Team achieved their goal of establishing a backup Mission Operations Center (bMOC) capability in just 45 days. The bMOC, located in Columbia, MD, is the Landsat Program's fallback control center for Landsat 7 in the event operations at Goddard Space Flight Center are impaired. The Landsat 7 Flight Systems Manager observed a demonstration of the capability, providing USGS the assurance that the bMOC is ready to host flight operations on a moments notice. The initial capability includes commanding and realtime/playback telemetry receipt from the DataLynx/PF-1 site using a primary and alternate telecommunications path, mission planning and scheduling, load generation, flight dynamics product generation, and trending operations. With the help of the Data Capture and Processing Facility personnel at the USGS EROS Data Center, the Landsat 7 team has resolved security and configuration issues so that the remaining Landsat ground network stations can be added shortly. The Space Network/TDRSS connectivity is soon to follow.

Technical News

Data Validation

During the month of June, the Thailand ground station (BKT) provided the USGS with Raw CC and L0Rp data for validation purposes. The BKT Raw CC data was successfully validated to be of equivalent quality to the corresponding USGS data. The L0Rp data validation was not a success. The BKT station will provide the USGS with a new L0Rp product in the month of July once the corrections have been implemented.

A revision of the Raw CC Data Format Control Book was distributed to the International Ground Stations for comment on June 18, 2002 via email. Comments are expected by July 22, 2002.

During the LTWG 12 meeting in Denver, Colorado, the IGS representatives and the USGS agreed upon the elimination of the 8mm tape. For the purposes of data validation and data exchange, the 8mm tape media will no longer be accepted.

Meetings

LTWG-12

The twelfth Landsat Technical Working Group Meeting (LTWG-12) was held in Denver Colorado during the week of June 17-21, 2002. The LTWG is composed of the USGS, NASA and the International Cooperators (IC) who operate the 16 Landsat 7 International Ground Stations. The purpose of the LTWG is to address technical issues associated with the reception, processing and distribution of Landsat data. Eight IC's were represented at the Denver meeting.

The meeting opened with presentations from the USGS on the status of Landsat 5 and Landsat 7. This was followed by an in-depth discussion on the USGS investigation into the utility of "bumper mode" data from the Thematic Mapper on board Landsat 5. Details of the correction algorithm and example images were presented. Each of the IC's gave a presentation on technical activities at their respective stations. Other presentations included an overview of DVD technology and a progress report from the Product Quality Validation subgroup. The final two days of the week were devoted to the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM). The IC's met with both formulation phase contractors (Resource21 and DigitalGlobe). Each company outlined their plans for LDCM and what role the international community played.

Related New

EO-1 Mission NASA and the USGS have agreed to extend the mission life of the EO-1 program through September 2002. Continued longevity of the mission is dependent on sufficient customer revenue to defray mission operating costs.

Landsat Applications Landsat data have been in strong demand for use in monitoring fires in the western United States. Federal, regional and state agencies have used the data to study the extent of the fire areas. Previously acquired data have been helpful for comparing conditions before and during the large fires.

The Landsat monthly update is an informal communication tool, prepared monthly and distributed electronically to USGS Landsat partners, to provide information about Landsat activities and related topics of interest. Comments, corrections, and queries may be directed to Ronald Beck, USGS Landsat team, at the following e-mail address: beck@usgs.gov.

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey